



## Interdisciplinarity and International Criminal Justice

### *ESIL Interest Group on International Criminal Justice* Online Roundtable

Wednesday 13 April 2022  
3.30-5.30pm CEST via Zoom

The field of international criminal justice is situated at the confluence of multiple co-existing, competing and cross-fertilizing regimes. *Normatively*, the field is host to a plurality of actors and institutions, informed by diverse traditions, influenced by varied interpretative methodologies, and often in dialogue with other interrelated and overlapping domains including the fields of human rights and transitional justice. *Factually*, the field examines a plurality of mass atrocity situations, each distinct in terms of their location, participants, size and scope. And *analytically*, the field has been examined and scrutinized from a range of perspectives—spanning disciplines as diverse as law, criminology, anthropology, political science, sociology, psychology, history and philosophy—each seeking to understand particular dimensions of its origins, rationales, meanings and effects.

This online roundtable seeks to examine *interdisciplinarity* in the field of international criminal justice. Interdisciplinarity has been characterised as difficult, if not impossible, particularly if understood as a synthesis of two or more disciplines that produces a novel approach. In practice, interdisciplinary work often does little more than remain grounded in a particular discipline while dabbling in the theory and methods of another. The roundtable aims to put into conversation three scholars who have recently published monographs that engage with the practice of international criminal justice from different disciplinary perspectives:

- **Oumar Ba's** monograph, *States of Justice*, brings together insights from international law, international relations, and comparative politics with fieldwork research to offer a theory of the ways in which states that are presumed to be weaker in the international system use the International Criminal Court (ICC) to advance their security and political interests. The book contends that African states have managed to instrumentally and strategically use the international justice system to their advantage, a theoretical framework that challenges one of the dominant approaches within international relations, that of the "justice cascade" argument.
- **Kjersti Lohne's** monograph, *Advocates of Humanity*, draws on insights from international law, international relations, and criminology, as well as critical globalisation studies, critical geography, humanitarian studies, and victimology, to explore the role of human rights organizations in their mobilization for global justice through the ICC. Based on multi-sited ethnography, primarily in The Hague and Uganda, the author approaches the transnational networks of NGOs advocating for the ICC as an ethnographic object. By analyzing how international criminal justice is arranged spatially, and as such expresses social, political, and cultural relations of power, *Advocates of Humanity* demonstrates how international criminal justice is generated in particular spaces, networks, and actors, who contribute significantly in structuring imaginations of justice circulating in the field.
- **Henry Redwood's** monograph, *The Archival Politics of International Courts*, integrates insights from international relations, archival science and post-colonial anthropology to establish a link between the archives produced by international courts and the constitution of the international community as a particular reality. It directs specific attention to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda's archive, to offer a critical reading of how knowledge is produced in international courts and an account of the type of international community that is imagined within these archives, and establishes the importance of the materiality of archives for understanding how knowledge is produced and contested within the international domain.

**Chair:** [Heidi Matthews](#), Assistant Professor, Osgoode Hall Law School

**Speakers:** [Oumar Ba](#), Assistant Professor of International Relations, Cornell University  
(author of *States of Justice: The Politics of the International Criminal Court* (CUP 2020) – available [here](#))

[Kjersti Lohne](#), Professor in Criminology, University of Oslo  
(author of *Advocates of Humanity: Human Rights NGOs in International Criminal Justice* (OUP 2020) – available [here](#))

[Henry Redwood](#), Senior Lecturer in International Relations, London South Bank University  
(author of *The Archival Politics of International Courts* (CUP 2021) – available [here](#))

Those interested in attending the online event should **register by sending an email** to [b.j.sander@luc.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:b.j.sander@luc.leidenuniv.nl) providing your name and institution, **by 12 April 2022**. A Zoom link will be circulated to those registered shortly before the event.